CHAPTER III.

GROSS YIELD AND OUTTURN OF FOREST PRODUCE.

I.—DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS.

(1).—Timber.

164. The outturn, in cubic feet, of timber exploited departmentally from the forests of the different divisions of the Central Circle, with the cost incurred and the amount realized by its sale, during the forest year under report, compared with the results of the year preceding, is given in the following statement:—

No.	Division.	1891-92.			1892-93.		
		Timber in the rough.	Cost.	Receipts.	Timber in the rough.	Cost.	Receipts.
		C. ft.	Rs.	Rs.	C. ft.	Rs.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh	19,532	1,339	10,448	18,740	1,273	10,152
2	West Khándesh	145,812	4,158	48,985	141,025	4,044	63,192
3	Násik	26,802	206	3,103	15,894	72	1,125
4	Ahmednagar	35,190	1,261	7,977	64,514	1,215	7,873
5	Poona	50,785	3,088	26,130	61,638	2,877	26,544
6	Sátára	20,041	1,470	13,618	13,545	1,154	9,058
7	Sholápur	931	5	90	...	...	...
	Total ...	299,093	14,527	1,10,351	315,356	10,635	1,17,944

165. It should be remembered that although the figures of 1892-93 cover a period of fifteen months, the exploitations which took place during the last three months were comparatively inconsiderable, and of no great value.

166. In the East Khándesh Division the departmental fellings of teak (Tectona grandis) were not so extensive as during 1891-92; the greater portion was obtained from the clearances effected upon disforested lands in the Chopda and Yával ranges: but owing to higher prices obtained at the auction-sales the difference in recipts is trifling.

167. Departmental operations in timber in the West Khándesh Division were chiefly restricted to the teak (Tectona grandis) and blackwood (Dalbergia latifolia) fellings which were carried on in the Bhil settlements or in revenue waste lands all over the division, except in the Nizámpur Range. The timber fetched better prices than ruled the year before; and hence the increase of revenue upon that of the preceding year.

168. Departmental operations were undertaken, as usual, in the Deccan divisons of Násik, Ahmednagar and Poona, and the variations both in cost and receipts, except in the Násik District, where a smaller quantity of timber was felled, are so small as to require no special explanation.

169. The difference in outturn and receipts in the Sátára Division was due to reduced fellings: large quantities of teak-timber standing upon occupied lands were being sold, and therefore it was deemed advisable to decrease the volume of departmental fellings in the forests so as not to glut the market.

170. In the Sholápur Division there were no departmental operations, as all the timber exploited was sold standing in the forests, to be felled and removed by purchasers.

(2). Firewood.

171. The following statement gives the outturn of firewood including the loppings of teak (Tectona grandis), bábul (Acacia arabica) and other trees felled departmentally in the several divisions of the Central Circle, together with the

expenditure incurred, and the amount realized, compared with the results of the year preceding :—

No.	Division.	1891-92.			1892-93.		
		Firewood.	Cost.	Receipts.	Firewood.	Cost.	Receipts.
		C. ft.	Rs.	Rs.	C. ft.	Rs.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh	404,910	2,999	14,230	1,022,985	6,480	29,778
2	West Khándesh	385,562	1,836	11,014	431,766	2,407	12,433
3	Násik	227,984	1,150	3,795	129,463	677	3,322
4	Ahmednagar	154,818	...	755	111,614	18	635
5	Poona	81,081	356	1,796	45,365	184	836
6	Sátára	244,920	1,343	4,230	376,341	2,207	4,910
7	Sholápur	15,130	100	1,293	18,735	109	2,103
	Total ...	1,514,405	7,784	37,113	2,136,269	12,082	54,017

172. The increase in the outturn of firewood in the East Khándesh Division is chiefly due to very extensive clearances of trees from disforested lands in the Chopda and Yával ranges. The bábul-wood (Acacia arabica) felled in the Edlabad Range fetched a very high price; and the firewood cut in the Chopda Range was all bought up by the local ginning factories and steam presses, but the firewood in the Yával Range failed to obtain the price expected for it, and consequently it remained on hand at the close of the year.

173. In the West Khándesh Division the departmental fellings of firewood were confined mainly to three species which predominate, *viz.*, anjan (Hardwickia binata), kheir (Acacia catechu) and bábul (Acacia arabica). The demand for firewood of these kinds in the town of Dhulia more particularly is very considerable.

174. In the Násik, Ahmednagar and Poona divisions the firewood operations and their results are approximately the same as of the year preceding.

(3) Other Minor Produce.

175. The subjoined statement exhibits the results of the departmental collection of hirda fruit (Terminalia chebula) made during the year in the divisions of Násik, Ahmednagar, Poona and Sátára, compared with those of the preceding year :—

No.	Division.	Yield.		Cost.		Receipts.		Remarks.
		1891-92.	1892-93.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1891-92.	1892-93.	
		Kh. m. lbs	Kh. m. lbs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	Násik	49 0 0	39 4 8	21	21	1,431	773	
2	Ahmednagar	100 3 20	54 8 16	852	583	3,100	784	
3	Poona	265 5 8	.....	...	...	6,081	...	
4	Sátára	741 10 13	824 16 16	5,097	6,268	19,409	16,945	
	Total ...	1,155 19 13	918 1 12	5,970	6,872	30,021	18,502	

176. No other minor produce was collected departmentally.

177. In the Násik Division the outturn of hirdas was very poor, owing to a blight which attacked the flowers, and the price obtained compared very unfavourably with the preceding year's prices: this is attributed to the inferior quality of the fruit owing to the effects of the blight.

178. The collections of hirdas brought to the forest depôts in the Ahmednagar Division were also very small, for the crop on the trees was an indifferent one; there has, however, been a steady decrease, ever since 1888-89, in the quantities of hirdas brought to the forest depôts in the Akola Range, owing, seemingly, to the nuts being purloined from the Government trees in the forests and illicitly exported from the district. The Koli villagers, who inhabit the forest villages bordering the Syhádri mountains in the moist forests where the Terminalia chebula abounds, find it to be a profitable venture to rob the trees in the Government forests of their fruit and to sell the latter to village

shop-keepers and money-lenders, and sometimes to carry the nuts themselves to railway stations in the Násik and Thána districts for sale; and it is very difficult indeed to detect and apprehend them in the act. The Kolis, moreover, are lawless and violent, and the forest guards are not generally very ready to tackle them in the forests. Dealers from the Junnar Táluka of the Poona District come to the Akola frontier, and tempt the forest villagers to bring and sell to them illicitly acquired hirdas; and in the same way, on the north side, dealears from Násik induce the villagers to bring stolen hirdas to the Ghoti Station on the G. I. P. Railway. The large number of hirda trees on private lands in the Akola forest villages facilitate the robbing of the Government trees in the forests; and until effective control over hirdas being moved from villages and from the range, in head loads and by carts, is enforced by a system of passes under the rules of Section 41 of the Forest Act, it will not be possible to stop the smuggling that goes on. The Collector has recorded his opinion that "the short hirda crop is due to pilfering."

179. In the Sátára Division the quantity of hirdas brought to the departmental depôts was much greater than of last year, but the selling rates were very low, and consequently the revenue derived from this service was very much below the estimate.

II.—REMOVAL OF PRODUCE BY PURCHASERS.

180. The following statement shows the outturn, in cubic feet, of the timber removed from the forests of the several divisions of the Central Circle, by purchasers at their own expense and the amounts realized, compared with the results of the year preceding:—

No.	Division.	1891-92.		1892-93.	
		Timber in the rough.	Amount realized.	Timber in the rough.	Amount realized.
		C. ft.	Rs.	C. ft.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh	213,000	4,354	255,105	6,024
2	West Khándesh	213,750	8,834	158,189	17,300
3	Násik	641,262	33,488	567,541	30,346
4	Ahmednagar	305	158	...	267
5	Poona	193,774	235	1,413	1,395
6	Sátára	2,230	801	25,023	12,341
7	Sholápur	129	176	302	11,155
	Total ...	1,264,450	48,096	1,007,573	78,828

181. In the two divisions of the Khándesh Collectorate some standing trees upon disforested lands were sold to be felled and removed by the purchasers, but the larger portion of the exploitation from the forests was made by privilege-holders on permits on the fee system; and the quantities of timber thus removed were greater than of last year, so that the receipts compare favourably with the results of that year.

182. The revenue under this sub-heading in the Násik Division is, for the most part, derived from teak (Tectona grandis) trees sold standing for being felled and removed upon occupied lands outside the boundaries of the reserved forests in the Peint Range. The teak trees on the cultivation lands in groups of villages are sold yearly, and a complete group was offered for sale this year, but the demand was weak, and the offers were low, and therefore, as many villages as had been put up for sale were not sold, but a few were held back; thus there is a decline apparent both in the volume of timber and in the revenue.

183. The quantity of timber removed from forests on payment of fees prescribed in Government Resolution No. 8494, dated 14th December 1887, by the residents of the 44 ghát villages of the Akola Range of the Ahmednagar Division was comparatively larger, and consequently the receipts were also greater.